

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 NIC-01 DRC-01

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R 171445Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5910

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USUN NEW YORK 839

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 9155

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS KN VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN-NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 195339; (B) STATE 113767; (C) CARACAS 9008

1. PURSUANT TO REF (A) POL COUNSELOR RAISED QUESTION OF VENEZUELAN-NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 16 WITH AMBASSADOR JOSE LUIS MARTINEZ, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FONMINISTRY'S DIRECTORATE OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY. POL COUNSELOR CLOSELY FOLLOWED THE POINTS CONTAINED IN PARA 2 OF REF (B).

2. MARTINEZ INDICATED THAT THE VENEZUELAN POET ALI LAMEDA (REF C) HAD NOT YET BEEN RELEASED, AND THAT THE GOV STILL DOES NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHY HE HAD BEEN IMPRISONED FOR SO LONG BY NORTH KOREA. MARTINEZ DID NOT WISH TO COMMIT HIMSELF AS TO WHETHER VENEZUELA EXPECTS TO RECOGNIZE NORTH KOREA, BUT STATED THAT HE AGREED AND WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE REASONING SET FORTH IN PARA 2 OF REF (B) AS EXPLAINED BY POL COUNSELOR. MARTINEZ SAID THESE CONSIDERATIONS WOULD BE RAISED WITH THE NORTH KOREANS DURING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S "NEXT CONVERSATIONS" WITH THEM.

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3. COMMENT: APPARENTLY MARTINEZ HAS BEEN THE VENEZUELAN

FON MINISTRY'S POINT OF CONTACT FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH NORTH KOREA ABOUT RECOGNITION. POL COUNSELOR GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GOV IS MOST ANXIOUS FOR LAMEDA'S RELEASE, AND THAT THIS IS A SINE QUA NON FOR ANY FURTHER GOV DISCUSSIONS WITH NORTH KOREA ABOUT RECOGNITION. IF LAMEDA'S RELEASE GOES SMOOTHLY, EARLY RECOGNITION OF DPRK BY THE GOV WOULD SEEM QUITE POSSIBLE, BUT IN THE PROCESS THE GOV WOULD PROBABLY PUSH THE NORTH KOREANS TOWARD THE CONCEPT OF EQUAL TREATMENT. FISHER

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